REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed July 27, 2005. Claims 1, 26, 55, 56, 66, 72, and 98 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-20, 22-52, 54-95, 97-128, and 130-132 remain pending in the case. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Telephone Interview Summary

On September 26, 2005, a telephone interview was conducted between Examiner Kelley, Examiner Shang, Jeffrey C. Hood (Reg. 35,198) and Mark S. Williams (Reg. 50,658), in which the features and limitations of claim 1 was discussed in relation to the cited art of Humpleman, including the nature of the interface devices. Applicant's noted that the present system differs from client/server systems, at least in that the second interface device is not capable of executing application software (e.g., a browser, etc.). The Examiner indicated that amending the independent claims to specifically include this feature would overcome the art of Humpleman. Applicant agreed to amend the independent claims accordingly.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-46, 48-52, 54-73, 77-95, 97-99, 103-128, and 130-132 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al (U.S. Patent 6,603,488, "Humpleman"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 recites:

1. A computer network, comprising:

a plurality of interconnected nodes, each one of said plurality of nodes having a corresponding data terminal equipment (DTE) device coupled thereto, wherein each of said corresponding DTE devices comprises:

a computing system located at a first location;

a human interface located remotely from said first location, said human interface comprising a display device and an input/output ("I/O") device;

a first interface device operable to couple to said computing system;

a second interface device operable to couple to said display device and said I/O device of said human interface, wherein the second interface device is not operable to execute application software; and

at least one transmission line operable to couple said first and second interface devices;

wherein said first interface device is operable to receive from said computing system a video signal to be transmitted to said display device and a non-video signal to be transmitted to said I/O device, and to convert each of said video signal and said non-video signal into a format suitable for transmission to said second interface device;

wherein said first interface device is operable to transmit said converted video signal and said converted non-video signal to said second interface device via said at least one transmission line;

wherein said second interface device is operable to receive said converted video signal and said converted non-video signal from said first interface device and to provide said video signal and said non-video signal to said display device and said I/O device, respectively; and

wherein the computing systems of the DTE devices are commonly located at the first location.

As indicated above, the independent claims have been amended to include the limitation: "wherein the second interface device is not operable to execute application software", which, as admitted by the Examiner in the above summarized telephone interview, is a limitation neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Applicant thus submits that the independent claims, and those claims respectively dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct and non-obvious over Humpleman, and are thus allowable for at least this reason.

Applicant respectfully requests removal of the section 102 rejection of claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-46, 48-52, 54-73, 77-95, 97-99, 103-128, and 130-132.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 12 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al (U.S. Patent 6,603,488, "Humpleman") as applied to claims 1 and 46, and in view of Gorman (U.S. Patent 6,141,356, "Gorman").

Claims 74-76 and 100-102 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al (U.S. Patent 6,603,488, "Humpleman") as applied to claims 73 and 99, and in view of Papanicolaou et al (Re 36,707, "Papanicolaou"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant submits that since the independent claims have been shown above to be patentably distinct and allowable, their respective dependent claims are similarly allowable, i.e., are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited art.

Moreover, as argued in detail in the previous Response, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety, Applicant respectfully submits that proper motivations to combine were not provided by or in the cited art, and so the 103 rejection of these claims is improper.

Thus, for at least the reasons provided above, Applicant submits that claims 12, 47, 74-76 and 100-102 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited art, and are thus allowable.

Removal of the section 103 rejection of claims 12, 47, 74-76 and 100-102 is respectfully requested.

Applicant also asserts that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the independent claims have been shown to be patentably distinct, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

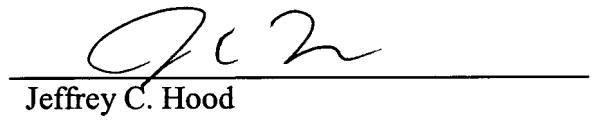
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5602-04203/JCH

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: 9/27/2005 JCH/MSW